

The Story of Stories

Author: Roopa Pai
Illustrator: Prashant Miranda

Level 2



It was a beautiful summer day in the Forest-By-The-Sea in the glorious land of Somewheristan. Whales danced in the waves, singing to each other. Sea lions, their smooth brown bodies glistening in the sun, played peek-a-boo with the noisy seagulls, barking and scolding.

Every creature in the Forest was **happy, happy, happy**.



Excuse me! you say. That can’t be true. There’s NEVER a time when EVERY creature ANYwhere is **happy, happy, happy**.

Hmmm. Maybe you’re right. Maybe not EVERY creature was happy. This journalist bear, for instance.

In this picture, Bear is trying to smile, but he has a great sorrow. He simply cannot find a ‘BREAKING NEWS’ story. He even sent Bird to look - because Bird moves faster and sees better - but Bird came back with nothing.



‘BREAKING NEWS’ stories are about anger and fear and hate and greed, and there was none of that in the Forest. Everything was **happy, happy, happy**.

A journalist bear without a ‘BREAKING NEWS’ story doesn’t deserve to be a journalist bear, thought Bear sadly to himself. He should be a Waiter Bear, or a Sweeper Bear, or a Telephone Voice Bear, saying, ‘Please check the number you have dialled’, or ‘Kindly wait - you are in a queue’.



He packed his things and started walking to the bus-stop, when Singing Sardarji popped out from behind a tree.



“Arrey oh Journalist Bear!” said Sardarji. “Going somewhere?”

“Don’t call me that or I will cry,” said Bear, and told Sardarji he was leaving to become a Telephone Voice Bear.

“Don’t be such a silly bear, Bear!” scolded Sardarji. He pulled out a guitar and began to sing.

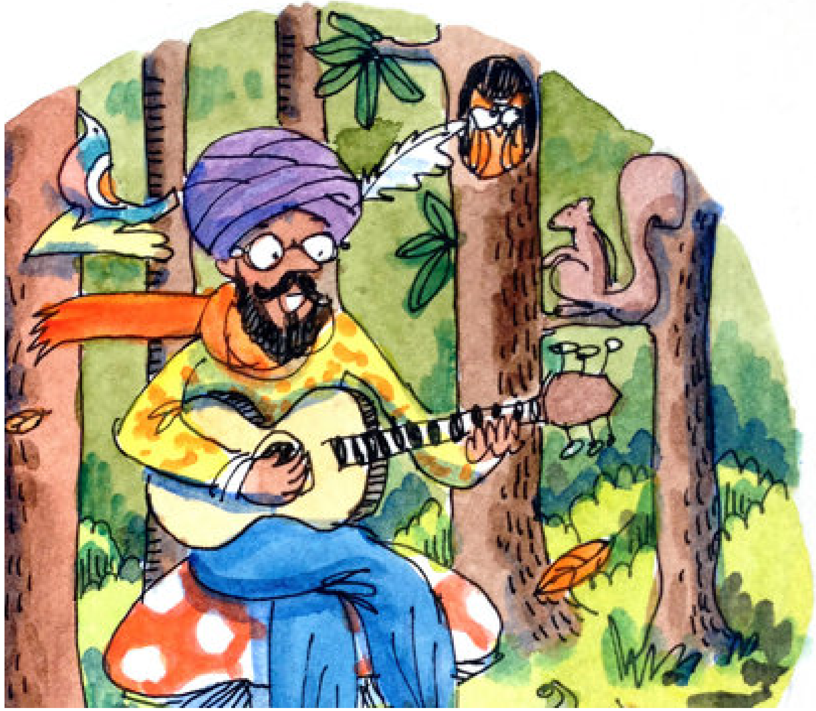
“If Tweety birds stop tweeting,
and Hooty Owls stop hooting,
the world would be a sad playyyy-ce,
don’t you see?”



“Don’t you seeeeeeee?” sang the Tweety Birds and the Hooty Owls.

“If Singing Sardarjis don’t,
and Journalist Bears won’t,
the world would be a bad playyyyy-ce, don’t you see?” sang Sardarji.





“I do enjoy being a Journalist Bear,” Bear said sadly. “I do love finding out things, and talking to people, and writing their stories, but I also do NOT have a ‘BREAKING NEWS’ story, which means...”

‘A-HA!’ said Singing Sardarji.
“What?” said Bear, puzzled.

“You like finding out things! And talking to people! And writing their stories! You are a Journalist Bear, Bear, but you have the soul of a... drumroll please... Writer Bear!”



Bear beamed. Sardarji was right! He really WAS a Writer Bear.

“Tell you what, Bear,” Sardarji went on, “let’s travel the world, you and I. I will sing, and you, Bear, will write. Not 'BREAKING NEWS' stories - no one remembers those after three days, anyway - but real stories of real people, stories that will never grow old.”

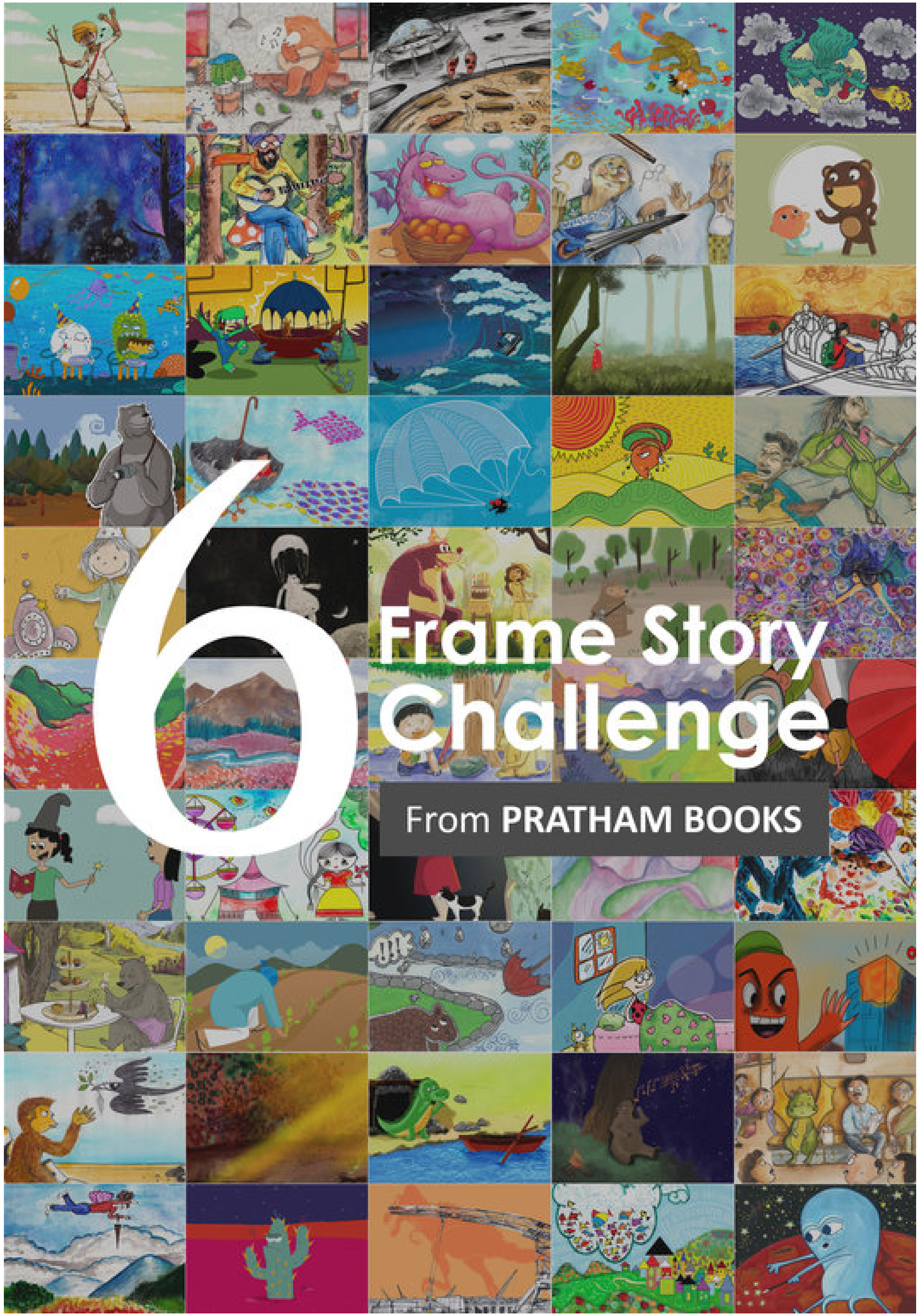
“Hurray!” said Bear.



And that was how Writer Bear and Singing Sardarji set out to explore the world.

Everywhere they went, Sardarji sang to the people, and Bear listened to them. Over time, Bear wrote many, many stories. Happy stories that made people cry, funny stories that made them think, sad stories that made them hope, and scary stories that made them laugh.

And Storyweavers all over the world picked up the long, strong, shining threads of Bear's stories, and wove them into new and wonderful stories for all of us to enjoy.



#6FrameStoryChallenge: A Carnival of Art

The illustrations in this book were created as part of the #6FrameStoryChallenge, an online campaign run by Pratham Books to build a rich bank of illustrations for StoryWeaver. The essence of the #6FrameStoryChallenge was to tell a good story using just 6 illustrations.

The campaign inspired nearly 70 illustrators to donate their time and skills to India's first open-source story-publishing platform for children.
What started out as an experimental campaign soon blossomed into a carnival of art, birthing nearly 500 new illustrations.

These wordless narratives cut across language barriers, opening up a world of possibilies, encouraging StoryWeaver's growing community to dream up multiple stories around these images. The #6FrameStoryChallenge is a powerful reminder of the need for collaboration, to get closer to our mission: "A Book in Every Child's Hand."

Story Attribution:

This story: The Story of Stories is written by Roopa Pai . © Storyweaver, Pratham Books , 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

This story was first published on StoryWeaver. It was created as part of StoryWeaver's 'Weave-a-Story' campaign which focussed on translating stories into as many languages as possible. https://storyweaver.org.in/

Illustration Attributions:

Cover page: Smiling bear and man, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: Summer day by the sea, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: Bear reading out to a bird, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: Bear on a tree, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: Bear carrying a bag, man watching by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: Man watching a bear carry a bag by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: Man singing in the forest, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: Bear reading on a tree, man singing in the forest by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: Bear and man with turban by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: Bear and man travelling on a boat, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: 6frame collage, by Prashant Miranda © Pratham Books, 2015. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

The Story of Stories
(English)

In a happy, happy, happy forest lives Journalist Bear who is sad because he can't find a 'BREAKING NEWS' story. A Journalist Bear without a 'BREAKING NEWS' story, can you imagine! Then along comes Singing Sardarji who helps Bear see who he really is. Read this story which celebrates the power and magic of stories, and the people who weave them into being.

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.